

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 cancelled.

7. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body, the die comprising a plate having a predetermined size and provided with:

a plurality of cell blocks on a front face thereof, the cell blocks being basically defined by four slits; and

a plurality of back holes on a back face of the die, each back hole being communicatively connected with a cross point of a predetermined slit,

wherein a plurality of cell blocks are disposed per one side of the die.

8. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein curved portions having a radius of curvature of 0.5 to 1.5 mm are formed at four corners of an peripheral portion of the die.

9. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein the die is made of cemented carbide having high wear resistance.

10. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 9, wherein the cemented carbide is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

11. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein the predetermined slits are disposed at every one positions of holes.

12. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein a thickness of the die is 15 to 30 mm.